

**Newport Hills Sports Field Project
Addressing Neighborhood Concerns**

Parks staff are exploring the following project mitigations (M) to help address the concerns (C) raised by the neighbors, and to be a good neighbor:

C. The existing field lights are noisy and buzz when in use.

M. The existing field lighting system will be replaced with new shielded fixtures that will significantly reduce spill light, noise and glare.

C. Consideration should be given to ending field activities at 9:00 p.m. instead of 10:00 p.m., especially on school nights. Adult use of the fields should be minimized. The City should consider incorporating more “blackout” times for scheduled field use to compensate for the extended use throughout the year.

M. Currently all programmed field activities end at 10:00PM with lights out at 10:15PM. Lights are out at Newport a full hour earlier than all other programmed lighted sportsfields in the Bellevue park system. There is no plan to reduce or extend hours of sports program operations.

C. Bad language can typically be heard during adult soccer games typically later in the evening. The 10:00 p.m. shut-down time must be enforced.

M. We will notify adult user groups that inappropriate behavior and language will not be tolerated, and that failure to comply may result in revoking field use.

C. Concern was expressed that this is a community park and not a sports complex and that the park is not large enough to allow for this type of sports activity.

M. The design will **not** include a full perimeter fence in order to maintain an open park feeling, and to encourage neighborhood use when the field is not scheduled, similar to the Robinswood Park fields. The design will retain a significant area of natural turf to allow for general park use and to facilitate the annual neighborhood picnic.

C. Consideration should be given to upgrading the fields at the middle school site north of the park.

M. We have had very preliminary discussions with Bellevue School District representatives, who remain reluctant to complete significant field upgrades at individual schools because it results in district-wide inequities. No formal discussions have been held with the school district.

C. Parking north of the park on SE 60th is a safety problem with people walking between cars to cross the street to the park. Crosswalks should be added on SE 60th. The City should consider an elevated pedestrian bridge across SE 60th. Park users park their cars in the neighborhood west

of the softball infield. Consideration should be given to joint use of the middle school parking lots.

M. We are working with our consultants, the Transportation Department and Bellevue School District to improve parking conditions around the park and to increase parking capacity at the park. The “No Parking Signs” on the shoulder 40’ south of the intersection will be removed to allow for angle parking in the existing gravel and mulch area east of the softball field to reduce parking on SE 60th.

The softball infield will be relocated to the southeast corner of the north field area closer to the dedicated parking for the park. This should significantly reduce parking for softball and Little League activities on SE 60th and place the infield adjacent to the existing crosswalk. It will no longer be convenient to use the residential area west of the park for on-street parking for games and practice. This modification will encourage pedestrians to access to the park at the SE 60th/120th SE crosswalk. Also, a pedestrian pathway connection along the park’s east side, running the park’s length from north to south, will encourage pedestrians to walk through the park vs. along the street.

C. Surface water runoff from the southwest corner is a problem during periods of heavy precipitation. Surface water has eroded neighbors’ landscaping in the past.

M. The storm drainage system will be upgraded and will be connected to the existing storm drainage infrastructure south of the park. Concentrated surface water flow from the southwest corner of the park will be eliminated.

C. The neighbors would prefer not to have a perimeter walking path on the west side of the park.

M. The perimeter pathway was removed from planning consideration.

C. The park should remain available for the annual July 4th celebration event.

M. After construction the park will remain available for the annual July 4th event. Parks staff will work with the community regarding logical coordination.

C. Sportsfield users will mainly be from Seattle and other areas and NH park will become regional sportsfield destination.

M. Currently sportsfields programming serves mainly the Newport Hills youth community, 62% of use is for Newport area youth soccer games, 24% other youth sports including camps, and 13% adult soccer games. A synthetic sports surface will allow for year-round use, with the distribution of use expected to remain predominantly neighborhood use.

C. How did this project get approved?

M. See the Background attachment on the Newport Hills web page for a detailed outline of the process that brought this project to Newport Hills Park.